

OCPL's laudable initiatives ensure sustainable livelihood for displaced families of Manoharpur coal mine project



OCPL's initiatives taken in the coal bearing areas near Manoharpur seem to be quite a significant testimony to promote sustainable livelihood among displaced families in the post-displacement period.

Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL), a public sector undertaking of Odisha Government had to carry out displacement of some families from areas in and around Manoharpur and Dip-side of Manoharpur Coal Blocks which were allotted to it by the Union Ministry of Coal in 2015 to cater the fuel requirement of OPGC's expansion project (4x660 MW) at IB Thermal Power Station, Banaharpalli in Odisha's Jharsuguda.

The operation of Manoharpur Coal Mine requires physical displacement and shifting of two villages namely Manoharpur and Ghumudasan. The physical displacement and shifting of Manoharpur village has been completed whereas the relocation of village Ghumudasan is in progress.

OCPL has adhered to the Orissa Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 and declared a comprehensive

R&R package for the Displaced Families (DFs).

OCPL has set-up a model R&R colony with required basic amenities and facilities like School, Anganwadi, water supply, electricity, road, community centre, dispensary, veterinary centre, shops, kiosk, PDS centre, sewage treatment plant, children park, pond, crematorium, training centre, temple, Gram Devi Pitha, rahasa mandap, orchard and outer trench with barbed wire fencing.

Pucca house of 1060 sq ft with provision of 2 bed rooms, kitchen, cowshed, bathroom & toilet, courtyard with electricity and water connection has been provided to 233 eligible DFs opted for R&R colony. Double cash compensation in-lieu of employment, annuity schemes, skill development & engagement under mining operation and promotion of sustainable livelihood are key components of rehabilitation package.

OCPL has been actively promoting sustainable livelihoods for the DFs. The Company has engaged "MART Global Management Solutions LLP", an internationally reputed knowledge-

based consulting firm to manage the livelihood project for DFs of Manoharpur R&R colony. The project started in March 2017 with the objectives to promote sustainable livelihood and substantially increase their income in the post-displacement period.

In the last 34 months since inception, MART has involved the DFs in various farm based and non-farm based income generating activities through community mobilization, capacity building and exposure visits, business plan preparation, piloting, project activation, technical & handholding support and creating sustainable market linkages. For effective realization of project objectives, MART has promoted both group-based Income Generation Activities (IGAs) as well as individual-based entrepreneurial activities.

On the collective front, five active Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been promoted. Presently the groups are involved in production and marketing of mushroom, strawberry, processing and marketing of spices, trading in decorative items, food processing, phenyl production, incense

sticks manufacture and garments stitching & marketing.

MART has also promoted individual entrepreneurs in production and marketing of disposable buffet plate and bowls, fabrication of steel structures, puffed rice manufacturing, poultry, beauty parlour, various kinds of retail shops and dairying.

Job oriented trainings have been provided to eligible DFs under DDU-GKY and Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes. Further, awareness programs on socio-economic issues are conducted at the R&R Colony to sensitize the DFs on water conservation, ill-effects of alcoholism, safe financial investments and women empowerment.

Senior citizens, widows and differently-abled persons have been enrolled into relevant social-security schemes meant for them.

The most significant aspect of this intervention is the productive utilization of compensation money received by the displaced families from OCPL for the income generating activities. On the technical support front, for every promoted income-generating activity, MART conducted detailed technical and financial analysis consisting of resource mapping, market and feasibility analysis.

There is a positive sentiment amongst the DFs on the quality of interventions which in turn creates a rippling effect for remaining DFs to join in actively for securing their livelihoods. A sense of competition is also perceptible amongst them, with each one trying to start something unique. For OCPL this is a small yet significant testimony to promote sustainable livelihood among displaced families in the post-displacement period so that the displaced families can lead a better and respectable life.